

UTAH AND THE "MORMONS."

INVESTIGATION BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

THE question of the admission of Utah as a State into the Union has been before Congress, and was considered by the House Committee on Territories. A portion of the report made by that body of official investigators is submitted herewith. The authority of Congress respecting the status of the "Mormon" people should be final. Justice may sometimes be tardy, but it will ultimately triumph as in this case. The report was presented by Congressman Springer during the session of Congress held in the spring of 1859.

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 4428.]

The committee on territories, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4428) for the admission of the State of Utah into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, having had the same under consideration, have instructed me to submit the following report thereon:

Utah is asking to be admitted as a State under a constitution some of the provisions of which, and the circumstances under which it was made and by whom made, will be hereafter considered.

DUTY OF CONGRESS.

It is certainly the interest, as it has been the policy, of the General Government to create States out of the Territory belonging to the Federal Government whenever there is a population within a defined locality sufficient to justify a State government, and of such a fixed character and possessing such qualities and interests as to justify conferring the exclusive power to control local affairs. The admission of new States into the Union adds to its strength as a nation, and it may be said, therefore, that it is not merely the privilege of Congress but the duty of Congress to

convert this public domain into States as fast as population and conditions will justify.

RIGHT TO A STATE GOVERNMENT.

But it is not only the duty of Congress to bring in new States; it is the right of the people to have a State government when the conditions exist.

When Congress creates a Territory, and a Territorial government for the people who may inhabit it, it is with the implication that they shall have a State government, and shall be part and parcel of the nation in every respect, and especially have a voice in its affairs.

With this promise held out to them, they occupy and develop a part of the public domain, and when they have fulfilled these conditions, their right to a State government cannot, without bad faith, be denied, unless there are other conditions existing that relieve Congress from the duty that would otherwise be imperative.

CONDITIONS IN UTAH.

In the consideration of this subject your committee have carefully examined into matters relating to the population, resources, and material development of that Territory and the social status of the people.

The proponents of this constitution, as well as those in opposition, have been fully heard; statistics have been carefully and elaborately presented and considered, and the facts about to be stated herein are undisputed. They are not only asserted by the proponents, but they are freely and frankly admitted by the opponents, and are fully sustained by record statistics.

The population of Utah is now about 210,000.

The yearly productions may be summarized as follows:

Grain and hay products . . .	\$ 6,519,000
Vegetable and other garden products	1,550,000
Cattle, 1,500,000 head, value	11,550,000
Horses, 250,000 head, value . .	10,000,000
Sheep, 2,400,000 head, value . .	12,000,000
Swine, 100,000 head, value . . .	500,000

The annual yield of farm and garden products, and profits of stock-raising and of the wool clip, is estimated to be not less than 18,304,000 dollars.

The manufactured articles for 1888 are valued at about 9,000,000 dollars.

The output of the coal mines of Utah last year exceeded in value over 1,000,000 dollars.

The output of precious minerals in 1888 at sea-board value was 10,993,781 dollars.

The total business transacted in the Territory, exclusive of railway and telegraphic business, amounted to something like 150,000,000 dollars.

The transactions in real estate in Salt Lake City alone for 1888, as they appear by the records of that county, aggregated 5,365,666.58 dollars.

There are 1,140 miles of railway in operation in Utah, and several new lines in course of construction and projected.*

Telegraph lines connect all the principal settlements, and the telephone and electric light are extensively used in the larger towns.

The real estate is valued at not less than 110,000,000 dollars; the aggregate of property is placed at 250,000,000 dollars, exclusive of mines, which are untaxed.

The records of the land office show that there have been, since its opening in 1869, 8,157 homestead entries for a total acreage of 10,002,998 acres, and 11,056 pre-emption filings for 1,398,520 acres; cash entries numbered 3,297, for 393,829 acres, and desert application 2,573 for 508,388 acres; timber culture 1,061 for 127,868 acres; a total of 26,134 entries and applications for 12,300,551 acres.

The private ownership of the land in the Territory is generally in small tracts. The average is not to exceed 70 acres to each owner. The Territory is conspicuously free from land

monopoly. The people generally own their own lands, holding titles from the government.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

The manufacturing interests are varied and of increasing magnitude. Among these are flour-mills, woolen-mills, saw-mills, planing-mills, paper-mills; clothing, hoot, shoe, hat, glove, hosiery, milk, broom, brush, sash, door, and molding factories; iron, glass, soap, glue, chemical, furniture; cooperage, refining, and smelting works; foundries, potteries, machine-shops, lime-kilns, brick-yards, cement-yards, etc.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

The mineral deposits include gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper, the finest marbles, white and colored granite, limestone and various building stones; there are also antimony, sulphur, gypsum, manganese, and beds of asphaltum, osokerite, others, besides petroleum, natural gas, etc. The precious metals have yielded during the last seventeen years the sum of 134,992,630 dollars, which is evidence of their richness and permanency. The coal beds and salt deposits are practically inexhaustible, and new discoveries of valuable minerals are made every year.

SCHOOLS.

The Territorial Legislature has provided a system of public schools and for the support thereof, which is summarized as follows, the particulars being taken from the statutes of Utah and from the report to Congress for 1888 of the commissioners of schools appointed under the provisions of the act of Congress of March 3, 1867:

There are 24 counties in the Territory, in which there are 344 school districts, and in these districts there are 460 public schools.

There are 641 teachers and assistants, and of these 40 are non-Mormons.

The school population (between the ages of six and eighteen years) is 54,943, of which 47,371 are Mormons, and 7,562 non-Mormons.

The number of scholars enrolled is 32,988, of which 30,721 are Mormon,

and 2,287 non-Mormons: (Com. Report, pp. 9, 10).

HOW SCHOOLS ARE MAINTAINED.

These schools are supported as follows:

By a Territorial tax of 3 mills on the dollar for payment of teachers. Trustees are elected by the tax payers in each district, and these trustees are authorized to levy and collect an additional tax of one-fourth of 1 per cent for general school purposes; and by a vote of a majority of the taxpayers in any district a farther tax, up to 2 per cent, may be assessed and collected for school purposes. (Com. Report, p. 2, 34.)

The value of district school property is 542,755 21 dollars. (*Ibid.*, p. 12.)

The amount paid for school teachers and appliances for schools for the year ending June 30, 1893, was 293,085 dollars. (*Ibid.*, p. 15.)

The text books used in these schools are as follows: Bancroft's Readers; Harrington's Graded Speller; Appleton's Elementary and Higher Geographies; Spencerian Copy Books; Michael's System of Penmanship for fourth reader and higher grades of pupils; Krasl's Drawing Series; Pathfinder Series of Physiologies, consisting of No. 1, Child's Health Primer; No. 2, Hygiene for young people; and No. 3, Steele's Hygiene Physiology; Grammar; Barnes' Short Studies in English; Reed and Kellogg's Higher Lessons in English; Barnes' Primary History of the United States; Stephens' Music Readers; Harper's Arithmetics.

UNIVERSITY.

In addition to the foregoing there is the University of Deseret, which is in part supported by Territorial funds. It is open to all, and 40 students yearly are admitted upon condition that they become teachers in the district schools (*Ibid.*, p. 24).

All of the above-mentioned schools are non-sectarian; no denominational tenets are taught (*Ibid.*, p. 6).

DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS.

Of these the Mormons have 4
Other denominations 85

In the Mormon schools the scholars enrolled are 690 Mormons and 10 non-Mormons.

In the other denominations the scholars enrolled are 2,277 Mormons and 2,773 non-Mormons (*Ibid.*, p. 13).

It is very apparent from the statistics above given that the provisions for education are worthy of the highest commendation, and the results prove their value.

The average duration of schools in Utah in a year is 140 days. Only twelve States and one Territory and the District of Columbia have a higher average.

ILLITERACY.

The fruits of the school system are shown in the fact that the percentage of illiteracy is lower than the average of the country; and there are only thirteen of the States and Territories that show a lower percentage of persons who cannot read.

Connecticut and Utah have the same, namely, 3.27.

Leaving out of view persons of color, the following table from the last census report gives the comparison of illiteracy in Utah as compared with the aggregate of the States and other Territories:—

Age and nationality who cannot write.	Utah, U.S.	
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Native whites, 10 years and over	3.9	8.7
Foreign " " "	11.8	22.0
Whites, 10 to 14 years.....	10.7	11.9
Whites, 15 to 21 "	4.9	7.2
Whites, 21 years and over....	3.9	9.4

It cannot be, and is not, disputed that the educational facilities in Utah are of a high order of excellence, and the effect is shown in the statistics above presented.

CHURCHES

Of churches other than Mormon there are 65 in the Territory, holding church property of the value of 540,000 dollars, and having 168 ministers. These are Catholic, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational, Baptists, &c.

MORAL STATUS OF UTAH.

The population of the Territory may be classified generally, as follows:—

Mormons 170,000
Non-Mormons 40,000

It is universally conceded that no locality equally populated with Utah is freer from the vices that afflict communities than this Territory.

It is singularly free from saloons, houses of prostitution, and the like, and it is undisputed that the people generally are moral, industrious, and law-abiding. While this is true as to this population as an entirety, it is especially true as to the Mormon portion of it. Their characteristics in these respects are indicated by the following:—

Governor West, in his report to the Secretary of the Interior for 1828, says:—

I shall not asseign the Mormon people as wanting in comparison with other people in religious devotion, virtue, honesty, sobriety, industry, and the graces and qualities that adorn, beautify, and bless life.

Dr. Miller, editor of the *Omnaha Herald*, says:—

To the lasting honor of the Mormon people and system he it said, that for twenty-five years such machines of moral infamy as whiskey shops, basketries, Faro banks, and all the attending forms of vice and iniquity were totally unknown in Utah.

Bishop Spruiling, in the *Forum* of March, 1827, says:—

The Mormons are sober, industrious, and thrifty.

Mrs. Emily Pitt Stevens, editor of the *Pioneer*, a women's journal, writes:—

Utah is the wisest and best governed of any large section of people in the United States. In Great Salt Lake City there is less of rowdiness, drunkenness, gambling, idleness, theft, conspiracy against the peace of society, and crime generally than there is in any other city of the same population in the country, if not on the globe.

The testimony of Bayard Taylor, the illustrious traveler and author, is:—

The Mormons as a people are the most temperate of Americans. They are chaste, laborious, and generally cheerful.

Governor Stevenson, of Idaho, in his report to the Secretary of the Interior for 1898, says:—

Paris (Bear Lake County) has a population of about 1,000, all Mormons, and there is not a saloon or gambling house, or any other place where intoxicating liquor is sold, and this, I am told, the case in all the towns in Idaho where these people have exclusive control.

The Governor of Arizona bears similar testimony, and it appears that the moral character of the Mormons is good wherever they reside.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF UTAH.

That the affairs of this territory have been well managed in the past is sufficiently evidenced by the fact that there is no Territorial indebtedness except 150,000 dollars, which was created about a year ago under an act of the legislature for public institutions.

The legislature had appropriated 125,000 dollars for a lunatic asylum, 75,000 dollars for a reform school, 25,000 dollars for a capital building, 20,000 dollars for an exhibition building, 85,000 dollars for the university building, 20,000 dollars for a deaf-mute asylum, 25,000 dollars for an agricultural college; and the debt of 150,000 dollars in 5 per cent. bonds was created to meet balances due on these appropriations.

There has been no case of official embezzlement or malfeasance in office during the twenty-nine years of Territorial government.

From what has now been stated it is apparent that all the conditions exist in Utah, in a marked degree, necessary to entitle the people of that Territory to have a State government, and it is equally apparent that, by reason of her geographical position, her immense agricultural and mineral resources, her accumulated wealth, and the general intelligence and industrious and energetic character of her people, it is of national importance that Utah should have a State government.

The Latter-day Saints meet for Public Worship at

Sunday Services at 2 and 6 p.m.

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